

Appl. No. 09/972,287
Amtd. dated August 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action. of May 22, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) An airbag module, comprising:

~~a cover and a reaction housing, wherein the cover or the reaction housing has a plurality of mounting projections and at least one Z-height control tab, and the other of the cover or the reaction housing comprises a skirt with a plurality of windows corresponding to the mounting projections, such that the mounting projections engage the windows to define a Z-height, and the Z-height control tab engaging the skirt to substantially maintain the defined Z-height.~~

a reaction housing comprising a plurality of mounting projections, a reaction surface, and at least one Z-height control tab; and

a cover comprising a skirt with a plurality of windows corresponding to the mounting projections, the mounting projections engaging the windows to define a Z-height and the Z-height control tab engaging the skirt to substantially maintain the defined Z-height, wherein the Z-height control tab is aligned generally parallel to a plane extending across the reaction surface.

Claim 2 (original) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the reaction housing is made of stamped metal.

Claim 3 (original) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the Z-height control tab engages the skirt at an angle sufficient to prevent substantial Z-height movement.

Claim 4 (original) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the Z-height control tab engages the skirt generally perpendicularly to the skirt.

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Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (withdrawn)

Claim 8 (currently amended) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the ~~tab is semi-deflectable Z-tab is capable of buckling.~~

Claim 9 (original) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the Z-height control tab engages the skirt in a net fit.

Claim 10 (withdrawn)

Claim 11 (currently amended) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the Z-height control tab is integrally formed in the ~~cover or the~~ reaction housing.

Claims 12-14 (withdrawn)

Claim 15 (currently amended) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein ~~the cover or the~~ reaction housing comprising the Z-height control tab has a perimeter edge and the Z-height control tab projects outward from the perimeter edge to engage the ~~skirt other member~~.

Claim 16 (withdrawn)

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Claim 17 (original) The airbag module in claim 1 wherein the reaction housing has a shoulder and the tab is formed from stamping out a section of the shoulder.

Claim 18 (currently amended) An airbag module comprising:
a cover having a front panel and a skirt, the skirt having a plurality of windows; and
a reaction housing having a reaction surface and a plurality of integrally formed mounting projections, the mounting projections engaging the windows to define a storage volume, the housing further comprising at least one integrally formed Z-height control tab engaging the cover, wherein the Z-height control tab is aligned generally parallel to a plane extending across the reaction surface.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the Z-height control tab engages engage the skirt to maintain a defined Z-height .

Claim 20 (original) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the reaction housing is made of stamped-metal.

Claim 21 (original) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the Z-height control tab engages the skirt at an angle sufficient to prevent significant Z-height movement.

Claim 22 (original) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the Z-height control tab engages the skirt at a generally perpendicular engagement.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the tab is semi-deflectable Z-tab is capable of buckling.

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Claim 24 (original) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the Z-height control tab engages the skirt in a net fit.

Claims 25-28 (withdrawn)

Claim 29 (original) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the reaction housing has a perimeter edge and wherein the Z-height control tab projects outward from the perimeter edge to engage the cover.

Claim 30 (withdrawn)

Claim 31 (original) The airbag module in claim 18 wherein the reaction housing has a shoulder and the tab is formed from stamping out a section of the shoulder.

Claim 32 (currently amended) A airbag reaction housing comprising:
a cover having a front panel with a plurality of windows; and
a metal-stamped reaction housing having a reaction surface and a plurality of integrally formed mounting projections, the mounting projections engaging the windows to substantially maintain a Z-height in a tensile direction, the reaction housing further comprising at least one integrally formed Z-height control tab engaging the cover to substantially maintain the Z-height in a compressive direction, wherein the Z-height control tab is aligned generally parallel to a plane extending across the reaction surface.